

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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Special Services Fees and Classifications) Docket No. MC96-3

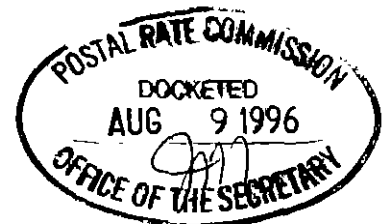
OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
INTERROGATORIES TO UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
(OCA/USPS-21-30)  
(August 9, 1996)

Pursuant to sections 25 and 26 of the Rules of Practice of the Postal Rate Commission, the Office of the Consumer Advocate hereby submits interrogatories and requests for production of documents. Instructions included with OCA Interrogatories 1-4 to the United States Postal Service dated June 19, 1996, are hereby incorporated by reference.

Respectfully submitted,

GAIL WILLETTE  
Director  
Office of the Consumer Advocate

SHELLEY DREIFUSS  
Attorney



OCA/USPS-21. Please refer to page 50 of library reference SSR-22. This describes the SAS item "F9246" as the "Heavy/Light Sample Weight." In addition, a further notation states, "For SAS analysis purposes, divide field f9246 by 1000 to obtain proper Weighting Factor."

- a. Please confirm that the IOCS weighting factor is "f9246/1000" for each observation. If you do not confirm, please provide the correct weighting factors.
- b. The response to OCA/USPS-T5-13c refers to changes to the IOCS weighting procedure. Please confirm that these weighting modifications are reflected in the f9246 weighting factors included in the IOCS data set. If you do not confirm, please provide a citation to the appropriate variables in the IOCS data set that contain these weighting modifications.
- c. Please provide complete documentation describing the calculation of the IOCS weighting factors. If this information has already been provided, please provide a citation to the appropriate MC96-3 document.

OCA/USPS-22. Please refer to the response to OCA/USPS-T5-13c.

The last sentence states, "The weighting was based on costs

rather than the number of facilities." Please provide the computational formulas used to compute weighting factors from costs. Please explain why the number of universe or sampled facilities was not utilized.

OCA/USPS-23. Please refer to the response to OCA/USPS-T5-13 and page 14 of SSR-90. SSR-90 defines the first stage sampling unit as the office, yet the response to OCA/USPS-T5-13 seems to indicate that it is now the finance number. The response to OCA/USPS-T5-13c indicates that an office could have different CAG designations for each of its two finance numbers.

- a. Please clarify what defines the first stage sampling unit for the FY 95 IOCS sample.
- b. Is it now possible for a CAG A mail processing function in an office to be in the IOCS sample, but the CAG C customer service function to be excluded from the sample? Please explain.
- c. Refer to subpart (b) of this interrogatory. Suppose that an office classified as CAG C in FY 92 was not in the FY 92 IOCS sample.
  - i. Please confirm that due to the restructuring, all such CAG C offices had their processing function assigned a

new CAG A finance number. Further, the customer service functions would keep the office's original finance number and remain CAG C. If you do not confirm, please explain.

- ii. Please confirm that the CAG A mail processing function would be brought into the IOCS CAG A certainty sample and that the CAG C customer service function would remain unsampled by IOCS. If you do not confirm, please explain.

OCA/USPS-T-24. Please refer to the response to OCA/USPS-T5-13c. This states that "the weighting was modified to reflect differences in representation of mail processing and non-mail processing facilities in the IOCS CAG A/B sample." Please explain this modification and provide the documentation and computational formulas used to perform this modification.

OCA/USPS-T-25. Please refer to Attachment 2 to OCA/USPS-T5-13b.

- a. Please provide a similar table containing employee universe counts.
- b. Please confirm that these employee universe counts are used to develop estimation weighting factors. If you do not

confirm, please explain and provide the appropriate employee universe counts used for weighting.

OCA/USPS-T-26. Please refer to the response to OCA/USPS-T5-15.

If the IOCS first stage sampling unit is now defined as the finance number and a given office can be composed of more than one finance number (of different CAGs), then:

- a. Please confirm that each line in the listing on the attachment to the response to OCA/USPS-T5-15 corresponds to a unique finance number. If you do not confirm, then please provide a table similar to that of the attachment to the OCA/USPS-T5-15 response showing historic finance number advancements and relegation in CAG status for IOCS sample finance offices up to FY 1995.
- b. Please confirm that the reason that the Postal Service does not maintain a similar listing for years prior to FY 93 is that that the FY 92 restructuring redefined finance numbers. If you do not confirm, please explain why it is not possible to produce historic records prior to FY 93.

OCA/USPS-T-27. Please refer to the description of SAS Item F9227 on page 49 of SSR-22. This appears to be related to the response

recorded to the IOCS mixed mail question 24. See page 133 of SSR-12.

- a. Please relate the possible values (00-24) listed in SSR-22 to the possible responses indicated in SSR-12.
- b. The entry for "Sub-Item Name" for F9227 of SSR-12 is "(See Remarks File 24A-24X)." Please explain the reference to this "remarks file."

OCA/USPS-T-28. Please refer to SAS Item F262 on page 50 of SSR-22. Please confirm that the activity codes referred to as F262 correspond to those of SSR-1 Tables B-1 and B-2. If you do not confirm, please provide a corrected listing of the FY95 activity codes used in F262.

OCA/USPS-T-29. Please refer to SAS Item F9250 on page 50 of SSR-22. The title of this item is "Tally Dollar Value" and an additional notation says to "divide field by 100 to obtain value in dollars." Please explain how the value for F9250 is computed and provide guidance on how it should be used.

OCA/USPS-T-30. Please refer to SAS Item F9253 on page 50 of SSR-22. The entry in the "Title of Item" column asks, "Is the

tally a Mixed Mail Counted Item which has been divided into one or more records with a direct mail activity codes assigned.

[sic]"

- a. Please explain how to interpret the values that can be assigned to F9253.
- b. Please explain how a typical mixed mail observation would be represented in this file.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 3.B(3) of the special rules of practice.

*Emmett Paul Gestic*  
SHELLEY DREIFUSS  
Attorney *for*

Washington, D.C. 20268-0002  
August 9, 1996